

# The Breeze



## Air Quality Tips for the Holidays

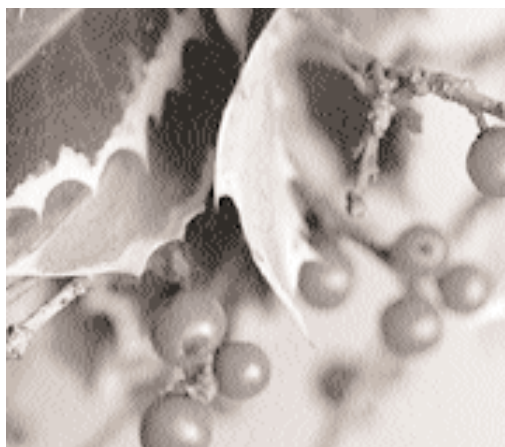
By Lynn White, Public Affairs Specialist

The upcoming New Year calls for New Year's Resolutions. What do you plan to do for cleaner air in 2003? If everyone in Southwest Ohio was to make (and keep!) one new resolution towards doing their share for cleaner air, it would account for at least 1.5 million actions making our air cleaner and healthier for us all.

So what can you do to clean our air? There are many things, such as taking care of your heating system, walking or cycling instead of taking the car for short trips, and using a rake instead of a leaf-blower.

*Start early!* Throughout the holiday season, there are many simple things we can do, such as:

- Recycle as much holiday garbage as possible (see "Wrapping" article).
- If you purchase a real tree, find one with the roots still attached, and plant it after the holiday season.



- Turn down the thermostat a few degrees to save energy and money.
- Turn your holiday lights off when you go to bed.
- Buy new Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights; they reduce energy usage by 99%, are safer (don't produce heat), have a long life span, and are easy to string.
- Give the gift of a tree to someone "who has it all." Many organizations and companies will plant a tree and present the recipient with a certificate. Visit [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org) for more information.
- Look for gifts that are labeled "Energy Star." These appliances are products which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For more tips visit [www.hcdoes.org/airquality/webpages/50ways.htm](http://www.hcdoes.org/airquality/webpages/50ways.htm).



## Meet Smog Hog!

*The latest member to the DOES family is the "Smog Hog." The skin of this giant, fibre-glass pig displays great tips for helping keep our air clean. The Smog Hog, created for the 2000 Big Pig Gig program in Cincinnati, now resides at the entrance to our offices, at 250 William Howard Taft Road in Cincinnati.*

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## Recycle Holiday Wrappings for Cleaner Air

By Christy Kellner, Business Specialist, Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District

The Holiday season is rapidly approaching, and people are diligently shopping for gifts, wrapping paper, boxes, trees, and decorations. After hours of wrapping, taping, and decorating, your family will turn beautiful packages into a mound of trash in minutes! Now you may be wondering "why is this a problem and what does this have to do with air quality?"

Manufacturing paper and the other goods we use everyday consumes a large amount of energy that we rarely consider. Recycling and pur-

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# Permits and Enforcement

## Small Business Assistance Program

By Alberta Mellon, Environmental Compliance Specialist

Congress recognized the complexity of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and required that all states develop a program to assist small businesses in meeting air emission requirements. In response, Ohio developed the Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP).

This program provides non-regulatory environmental assistance to small businesses who often cannot afford environmental experts to help them interpret regulations and complete the paperwork. If you are a small business with less than 100 employees, you

can receive help from this free and confidential service.

The SBAP is committed to serve as a one-stop location for small businesses in getting answers to environmental compliance questions. The SBAP has three parts: a technical assistance program; an ombudsman to serve as an advocate for small businesses; and, a compliance advisory panel to evaluate program effectiveness. Technical specialists can guide businesses through the regulatory process and assist in obtaining the appropriate permit.

While the program focuses on technical and compliance assistance, it also

encourages pollution prevention by connecting business owners with staff who can help them identify pollution prevention opportunities that may result in a more effective and profitable way of doing business.

Small businesses may seek help voluntarily and confidentially. Any information gained by the SBAP from small businesses receiving assistance cannot be used in any kind of enforcement action. The goal of the SBAP is to help small businesses comply, not to enforce their compliance.

For more information, please visit their website at [www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/sba/sbaintro.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/sba/sbaintro.html) or call Rick Carleski at (614) 728-1742.

## A Burning Issue

By Tom Wittekind, Environmental Compliance Specialist

It's that time of year again: the leaves are changing and the temperature is dropping. This means that many of us will be retreating to the warm confines of our homes and firing up those wood burning stoves and fireplaces. A great comfort comes from helping to protect your neighborhood's air quality from excessive wood smoke. This can be accomplished by simply burning wood responsibly. The best way to accomplish this is to follow these tips:

Try these easy to follow open burning tips!



ciently. The type of seasoned firewood is also important. Hardwoods such as hickory, oak and elm, tend to produce a longer lasting fire.

**Build Small Hot Fires:** Using small pieces of wood can help produce fires that burn hotter which results in less smoke. Split wood to a maximum of 4-6 inches in thickness and 2-4 inches shorter than the size of your stove's firebox.

**Start a Fire with a Fire Starter:** Independent research indicates that using a fire starter to start a fire in a wood stove or fireplace can cut particulate emissions by more than 69 percent.

**Use Manufactured Firelogs:** Wax/sawdust manufactured firelogs are good for occasional use in traditional fireplaces to reduce emissions. Sawdust-only firelogs can be used in both fireplaces and wood stoves, and they also reduce wood smoke.

**Use Low Emission Wood Burning Hearth Products:** All wood stoves and fireplace inserts manufactured and sold today in the United States must be certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). To meet the USEPA standard, all stoves must prove emissions of less than 7.5 grams of particulates per hour.

**Use Seasoned Firewood:** Firewood should be stacked and dried for six months before burning. This makes it easier to light and it will burn more effi-

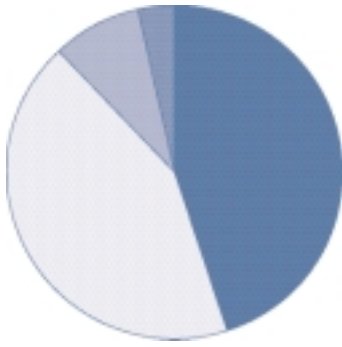
**Maintain Your Wood Burning Appliance:** The Chimney Safety Institute of America recommends that all chimneys and vents be inspected and cleaned on an annual basis. Frequent stove or insert use may require monthly chimney inspections and cleanings. Wood stove or wood burning fireplace connectors (stove pipes) should be checked every 2-4 weeks.



**2003 Clean Air A-Thon 5K Run and Walk on June 14, 2003, Sawyer Point.**

**2000-2001 Air Quality Progress Reports and 2001 Air Quality Data Reports are available on-line. Visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org), or call (513) 946-7747 to receive a copy.**

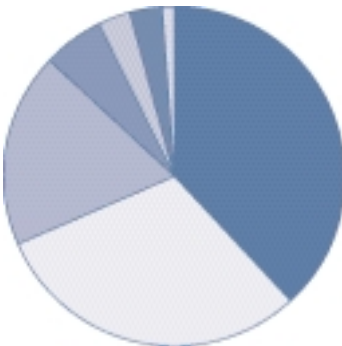
## Complaints by County



- Hamilton (115)
- Butler (110)
- Clermont (22)
- Warren (9)

County	July	Aug.	Sept.	1Qtr.	2Qtr.	3Qtr.	Total
Hamilton	.26	.51	.38	45	.53	.115	213
Butler	.44	.40	.26	21	.25	.110	156
Clermont	.16	.4	.2	4	.4	.22	30
Warren	.3	.4	.2	1	.3	.9	13

## Complaints by Type



- Odor (79)
- Particulate (99)
- Fugitive Dust (48)
- Asbestos (8)
- Open Burning (15)
- Other (3)
- Smoke (8)
- CFC (0)

Type	July	Aug.	Sept.	1Qtr.	2Qtr.	3Qtr.	Total
Odor	.17	.37	.25	39	.30	.79	148
Particulate	.41	.36	.22	14	.25	.99	138
Fugitive Dust	.20	.16	.12	5	.17	.48	70
Open Burn	.4	.4	.7	6	.6	.15	27
Other	.1	.1	.1	9	.2	.3	14
Asbestos	.4	.2	.2	2	.3	.8	13
Smoke	.2	.3	.3	2	.2	.8	12
CFC	.0	.0	.0	1	.0	.0	1

## Recycle Wrappings (continued from front page)

chasing recycled-content products can reduce air pollution by reducing the amount of energy used. In fact, recycled paper requires 64% less energy than making paper from virgin wood pulp. In the U.S., at least 39% of the waste stream is paper, with Americans using 85 million tons of paper every year. To make all this paper, the U.S. needs over a billion trees.

Recycling one ton of paper can save 17 trees, 6,953 gallons of water, 463 gallons of oil, 587 pounds of air pollution, 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space, and 4,077 kilowatt hours of energy? So where can you recycle your old Christmas paper and cardboard boxes?

**Hamilton County:** Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District host a Beyond the Recycling Bin program on the first Saturday of every month, allowing residents to drop off their mixed paper. Please call the recycling hotline at (513) 946-7741 or visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) for more information.

**Clermont County:** Visit [www.oeq.ne](http://www.oeq.ne). This site lists various recyclers, or call (513) 732-7745 for more details.

**Butler County:** Information can be found at [www.butlercountyohio.org/des/or](http://www.butlercountyohio.org/des/or) by calling (513) 887-3653.

**Warren County:** Information is found at [www.co.warren.oh.us/solidwaste/or](http://www.co.warren.oh.us/solidwaste/or) call (513) 695-1209.

## Waterfest Volunteers Needed!



Volunteer for a fun-filled at Hamilton County Waterfest.

This educational event is scheduled for March 18, 2003, at the Cincinnati Convention Center. At Waterfest, an 8 year-old Hamilton County children's conference focusing on water, students also learn about the effect poor air quality has on our waterways.

Many volunteers are needed! Waterfest is only possible with the help of local businesses and the community who provide many great people and financial assistance. This year, we expect approximately 2000, fourth and fifth graders from all over Hamilton County.

There are many volunteer roles including: leading groups of students to different presentations and shows, assisting presenters, and staffing booths. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please call Errin Howard at (513) 946-7737 for more details or visit [www.hcdoes.org/sw/Waterfest/waterfest2003.htm](http://www.hcdoes.org/sw/Waterfest/waterfest2003.htm).

*Have a suggestion for The Breeze?  
Contact Lynn White at 513-946-7754 or  
visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org).*

## Stack Test Data

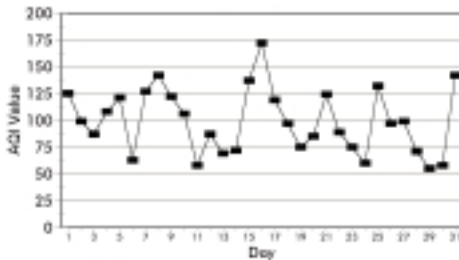
<b>First Quarter</b> 14	<b>Second Quarter</b> 21
<b>Third Quarter</b> 15	<b>Fourth Quarter</b> 0

**Total\*: 50**

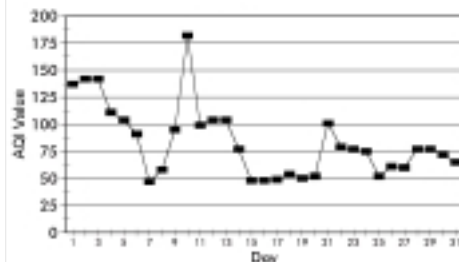
\*The Monitoring and Analysis staff have conducted 50 stack test observations during the first three quarters of 2002.

## Air Quality Index

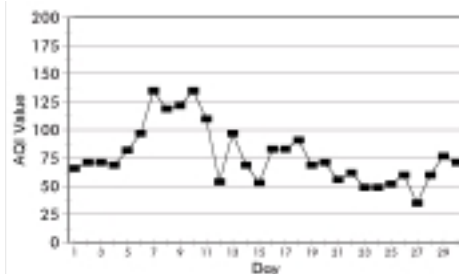
July 2002



August 2002



September 2002



# Monitoring and Analysis

## AK Steel Complaints on the Rise

By Gerald E. Fortson, Environmental Compliance Specialist.

The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (DOES) first began informing OhioEPA of ongoing complaints concerning particulate emissions from the AK Steel facility in Middletown in the mid-1990s. Since that time, air quality complaints received regarding the steel manufacturer have increased by 140%. There were only 29 complaints for the facility for the entire calendar year of 1996. As of September 2002, DOES has received 75 registered complaints regarding AK Steel. There is currently ongoing enforcement action underway at USEPA and OhioEPA concerning AK Steel. In addition, DOES has continued to collect samples of particulate deposition, as well as respond to citizen complaints.

On August 16, 2002, DOES installed a new ambient carbon monoxide monitor in response to several complaints that were received. The new unit, located at the E-Check facility on Lefferson Road, was field tested on August 22, 2002. Our most recent data shows that the ambient carbon monoxide concentrations are within the established range. (35 parts per million (ppm) for one-hour average) The highest recorded one-hour average was 4.7 ppm on October 30, 2002. If you have a concern about the air quality in your neighborhood, please call our 24-hour, air quality hotline at (513) 946-7777.

## CAGIS: Mapping the Way to the Future

By Christina Freas, Environmental Compliance Specialist

Did you know the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (DOES) has access to an interactive mapping system of Hamilton County, containing dozens of layers of information? This tool is called CAGIS (Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System).

CAGIS is a project created and managed by the Regional Computer Center (RCC). Users can create their own maps of the county choosing from many options such as streets, buildings, sewers, municipalities, and even aerial photographs. The maps can then provide information about locations, such as the property owner or which direction sewer water flows. There are many users of CAGIS, including government agencies, utilities, and private organizations that share information over the network. As more agencies enter data, this tool becomes more useful to each member of the CAGIS community.

The DOES has created a number of map layers such as air quality complaint locations, regulated facility locations, and several solid waste disposal and recycling sites. With one click, information such as addresses, dates of complaints, types of emissions and much more can be accessed. The DOES is currently creating new layers including stationary monitoring sites and Hamilton County school information.

Some non-interactive map images will soon be added to the DOES website. Visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) to access these maps as they become available. For more information on CAGIS and its history visit <http://cagis.hamilton-co.org/>. The DOES is still developing its vision of how best to use CAGIS and hopes to expand its functions in the Department in the future. For more information call 513-946-7702.

*Need to be removed from the mailing list?  
See back panel for instructions.*

# Calendar of Events

## Regional Ozone Coalition (ROC)

December 11, 2002,  
January 22 & March 26, 2003,  
10:00-11:30 a.m.  
DOES Conference Rooms

## Beyond the Recycling Bin: Mixed Paper Recycling Drop-off

January 4, February 1, &  
March 1, 2003,  
9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Locations: College Hill Krogers, Princeton High School, Western Hills Plaza, & Surrey Square Mall in Norwood.

## Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission

1st Thursday of every month,  
1:30-4:00 p.m.  
DOES Conference Room

## Computer Recycling Event

Registration open to Northern Kentucky, Butler, Clermont, & Hamilton county residents/businesses.  
Registration starts February 1, 2003. Visit [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org)

## Air Quality Policy Advisory Committee (AQPAC)

February 19, 2003,  
1:30-3:00 p.m.  
DOES Conference Rooms

Please visit our website at [www.hcdoes.org](http://www.hcdoes.org) or call (513) 946-7777 for updates!

# Air Quality Education and Outreach Update

## FREE 2003 Air Quality Calendar

As part of the Regional Ozone Coalition, the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services is proud to present the artwork of many talented local students in the new 2003 "Do Your Share for Cleaner Air" calendar. To receive a FREE 2003 calendar, please contact the Regional Ozone Coalition at 1-800-621-SMOG or Summer Jones at [sjones@oki.org](mailto:sjones@oki.org) (limited quantities available).

## AQ Workshops off to Good Start!

Staff is busy providing numerous air quality workshops and presentations in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren counties. Since the start of the school year, over 200 teachers and 700 students from public, private, and parochial schools have attended workshops and programs.

## Butler County Waterfest a Success

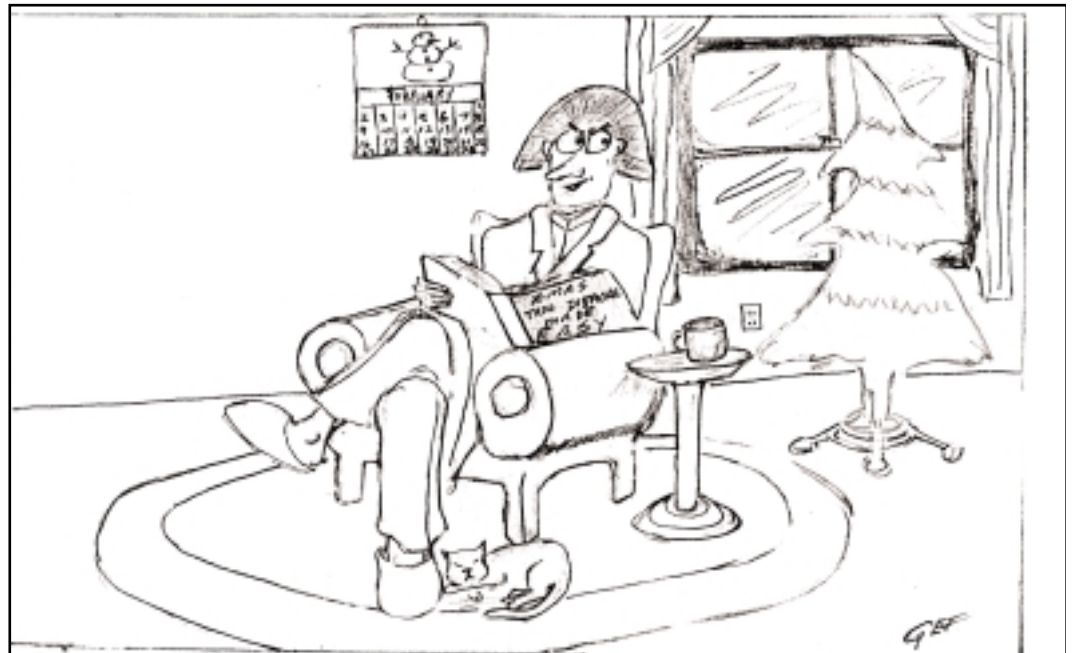
Roughly 150 Butler County students learned about the circulation of air pollution through the air, soil, and water. Presentations were also provided for volunteers in several local organizations, such as Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

## October and November AQ News

**October:** DOES helped organize a Permit to Install Training for local businesses. Also DOES held a public open house focusing on our new noise monitors.

**November:** DOES staff members assisted at the Environmental Community Organization's (ECO) workshop for the public titled "Decrease air pollution and protect public health."

**FREE AIR QUALITY PRESENTATION** Schedule a presentation for your community group, parish, school, business, or other organization, by calling Lynn White at (513) 946-7754.



Trying to make that old Christmas tree disappear? Try recycling.

# Who's Working For You?

By Lynn White, Public Affairs Specialist

Brad Miller, Permits and Enforcement Area Supervisor for the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, Air Quality Management Division, provides many valuable services both at work and in his spare time.

Brad began his career with the Department in 1987, as an environmental technician. As a technician, you may have seen him in the field in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, or Warren County.

Over the years, Brad has held numerous positions and has been promoted several times. He has even spent time as the Department's asbestos specialist. In 1993, Brad was promoted to his present position of Area Supervisor. This same year he was named the Hamilton County Employee of the Year. You may not often see Brad's face in the



*Brad Miller, protecting more than our air quality!*

field during work hours anymore, but you may see him in his other role, as a Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician for Colerain Township.

Brad started volunteering with Colerain Township Fire Department while he attended Miami University. Since then, he has risen to the position of Division Chief, in charge of approximate-

ly 100 part-time personnel. He, along with the Colerain Township Fire Department, can often be seen at events such as "Taste of Colerain," cooking huge batches of chili.

Brad does not spend all of his time at work, he is also an avid family man. His family can often be seen joining him, as volunteers, at Hamilton County Events such as the "Mixed Paper Drop- offs."

## Winter Car Tips for Cleaner Air



Check your tire pressure and alignment.

Did you know tires

lose a pound of

pressure for every 10 degree drop in temperature?

- Stop your vehicle's engine if it is idling at a drive-up window or in traffic jams and limit warm-up time in the winter. Contrary to popular belief, turning off and starting an engine uses less gasoline than letting it idle for 30 seconds.
- Change your oil and filter, fuel filter & air filter. Dirty filters increase gas use by 10%!
- Check crankcase breather elements often.

### HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

250 William Howard Taft Rd.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-2660  
www.hcdoes.org

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The Breeze is published quarterly. Subscriptions are available at no charge. Please forward name and address to Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services. Contact [lynn.white@hamilton-co.org](mailto:lynn.white@hamilton-co.org) for more information or call: (513) 946-7754, fax (513) 946-7779.